

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1 through 11 are currently pending in this application. Please amend Claims 1-11, as follows:

- 1.. (Currently Amended) A file sharing method in a storage system having a controller and a plurality of disk drives for sharing a file stored in [[a]] the storage system that is connected to a first host computer, which uses a first operating system for managing stored-location information of a first file using a first format and accessing said first file stored in said storage system, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a second operating system for managing stored-location information of [[the]] a second file using a second format different from said first format and accessing said second file in said storage system and not identifying said stored-location information of said first file managed by said first format, said file sharing method being used for reading the file, of which stored-location information is managed by said first format, from said second host computer,
said method comprises the steps of:
identifying a relationship between a first structure of said stored-location information managed by said first format and a second structure of said stored-location information managed by said second format;
converting the stored-location information of said first file [[in]] managed by said first format into said stored-location information [[in]] managed by said second format; [[and]]
reading data corresponding to said first file on the basis of the stored-location information [[in]] managed by said second format from said disk drives; and
sending said converted stored-location information of said first file and managed by said second format to said second host computer.
2. (Currently Amended) The file sharing method according to Claim 1, wherein:
said first operating system manages a stored location of [[a]] said first file on the basis of a block having a first fixed length;
said second operating system manages a stored location of [[a]] second file on the basis of a block having a second fixed length that is different from said first fixed length; and

said conversion step converts the stored-location information of said first file [[in]] managed by the first format into said stored-location information [[in]] managed by said second format on the basis of a ratio of a data length of said first fixed length to a data length of said second fixed length.

3. (Currently Amended) The file sharing method according to Claim 1, wherein:

the stored-location information [[in]] managed by said second format, which has been converted by said conversion step, is stored in a cache area in said storage system.

4. (Currently Amended) A storage system that is connected to a first host computer, which uses a first operating system for managing stored-location information of a first file using a first format, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a second operating system for managing stored-location information of [[the]] a second file using a second format different from said first format, said storage system comprising:

a plurality of disk drives for storing data therein; and

a disk controller comprising an interface for connecting to said first host computer and said second host computer, and an interface for connecting to said plurality of disk drives~~[[;]]~~, wherein:

said disk controller comprises:

a means for identifying a relationship between a first structure of said stored-location information managed by said first format and a second structure of said stored-location information managed by said second format;

means for converting the stored-location information of said first file managed by said first format into said stored-location information managed by said second format;

~~a means for holding stored location information of a file, which is stored in any one of said plurality of disk drives, in said second format, said stored location information of the file of the second format corresponding to the stored location information of the file in said first format; and~~

a means for reading data corresponding to said first file on the basis of the stored-location information [[in]] managed by said second format when an access request to access said first file is issued from said second host computer.

5. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 4, wherein:
said ~~disk controller comprises a~~ means for converting the stored-location information of said first file ~~[[in]]~~ managed by said first format into the stored-location information ~~[[in]]~~ managed by said second format~~[[,]]~~ is further for converting the stored-location information of said first file in response to a ratio of a data length of a first fixed-length block, which is used when said first operating system manages the stored location of said first file, to a data length of a second fixed-length block, which is used when said second operating system manages the stored location of the second file.
6. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 4, wherein:
the stored-location information in said second format corresponding to the stored-location information in said first format of said first file is held by any one of said plurality of disk drives instead of the disk controller.
7. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 6, wherein:
a first disk drive and a second disk drive of said plurality of disk drives hold ~~[[the]]~~ said stored-location information of said first file ~~[[in]]~~ managed by said first format, and ~~its corresponding~~ said stored-location information ~~[[in]]~~ of said first file managed by said second format respectively; and
both of said first disk drive and said second disk drive hold said first file.
8. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 7, wherein:
said disk controller accesses said first disk drive when an access request to access said first file is issued from said first host computer; and
said disk controller accesses said second disk drive when an access request to access said first file is issued from said second host computer.
9. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 4, wherein:
said disk controller comprises a means for exclusive control of an access request from said second host computer when the access request to access said first file from said second host computer conflicts with an access request to access said first file from said first host computer.

10. (Currently Amended) A storage system that is connected to a first host computer, which uses a first operating system for managing stored-location information of a first file using a first format, and that is connected to a second host computer, which uses a second operating system for managing stored-location information of ~~[[the]]~~ a second file using a second format different from said first format, said storage system comprising:

a plurality of disk drives for storing data therein; and

a disk controller comprising an interface for connecting to said first host computer and said second host computer, and an interface for connecting to said plurality of disk drives; wherein:

said disk controller mirrors ~~[[a]]~~ said first file, which is stored in any one of said plurality of disk drives and is managed under said first operating system, in another disk drive of said plurality of disk drives;

said disk controller converts the stored-location information of said first file ~~[[in]]~~ managed by said first format into ~~[[its]]~~ corresponding stored-location information ~~[[in]]~~ of said first file that is managed by said second format to write the corresponding stored-location information into said another disk drive; and

said disk controller reads said first file from said another disk drive when an access request to access said first file is issued from said second host computer.

11. (Currently Amended) The storage system according to Claim 10, wherein:

said disk controller converts the stored-location information of said first file ~~[[in]]~~ managed by said first format into said stored-location information ~~[[in]]~~ of said first file and managed by said second format, according to a ratio of a data length of a first fixed-length block, which is used when said first operating system manages the stored location of the first file, to a data length of a second fixed-length block, which is used when said second operating system manages the stored location of the second file.